years. The population of tigers and leopards, as estimated during the last two census, are:—

Years	Tigers	Leopards
1989	4334	6767
1993	3750	6828

For lions, census is carried out once in every five years. The figures in 1990 is 284 and in 1995 is 304.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government for Promotion of Tiger

(i) A "Tiger Crisis Cell" has been set up in the Ministry to suggest improvement in the management of tiger bearing areas of the country;

(ii) The State Governments have been advised to strengthen vigilance and intensify patrolling.

(iii) Steps are being initiated to set up "Special Strike Force" in the Project Tiger areas;

(iv) Inter-departmental coordination through the National Coordination Committee under the Ministry is showing positive results in the detection of more cases of poaching and illegal trade;

(v) A Protocol has been signed with the Government of Peoples' Republic of China to coordinate bilateral issues concerning tiger conservation and to check smuggling and the illegal trade of tiger bones and other parts of its body; and

(vi) Steps have been initiated by the Government to establish the 'Global Tiger Forum' for strengthening international cooperation to curb poaching of tiger and to coordinate efforts for the conservation of tiger and its habitat throughout the tiger range countries.

(vii) Funds under Centrally Sponsored Project Tiger Scheme are released to the State Governments for strengthening the protection network and improvement of tiger habitat.

(viii) JJ Dutta Committee, which was constituted on the advice of department related Parliamentary Committee for this Ministry, has also enquried into the issues of tiger conservation in the Project Tiger areas, and their recommendations are being acted upon within the constraints of budget and infrastructure.

Yield Maximisation Trials of Wheat

*47. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANTI RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the results of the yield maximisation trials of wheat;

(b) whether the results have been popularised; and

(c) if so, the response of the farmers thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISH-RA): (a) Yield maximisation studies were conducted in north-western plain zone and north-eastern plain zone.

In the north-western plain zone, all the important high yielding dwarf varieties were found to have realizable yield potential of 6.0—6.5 tonnesha. under increased and balanced use of fertilizer.

In the north-eastern plain zone, under similar management conditions, realizable yield is 5.0-5.5 tonnesha.

(b) The results of the yield maximisation trials are being popularised through frontline demonstrations. During 1995-96, 189 such demonstrations were organised all over the country. During 1996-97, **a** total of 200 frontline demonstrations are being organised.

(c) There has been a highly positive response from the farmers as evidenced from wide adopttion of the recommended package of cultivation practices with emphasis on use of higher dose of fertilizer nutrients.